

ASHLAND LAKEFRONT REPORTS SUBMITTED

Over the past year, Northern States Power, a Wisconsin Corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., has conducted work on various reports (described below) concerning the Ashland Lakefront Site. This work was needed to fill data gaps that were identified from prior studies and determine steps needed to clean up the site. The work cost nearly \$2 million and was completed under a plan approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Beginning in April 2005, environmental engineers began additional sampling work that included the use of heavy equipment and boats to collect hundreds of samples from soil, water, fish, bottom-dwelling organisms and sediments in the affected lake area. Samples were also collected from groundwater and soils on shore along the lakefront. All work was completed under EPA oversight with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

The EPA, WDNR and other agencies and stakeholders have reviewed and made comments to the drafts of the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment, Human Health Risk Assessment and Remedial Investigation Report. We are reviewing these comments and will re-submit updated reports in the coming weeks.

Once the draft documents are approved by the EPA there will be a public review and comment period.

Sediment Stability Assessment

The Sediment Stability Assessment analyzes the risks associated with the re-mobilization of the contaminated sediments caused by extreme events, such as a major storm. Submitted March 13, 2006.

Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment

The draft Ecological Risk Assessment analyzes the sampling information to estimate the likelihood of effects on organisms and ecosystems. Included with the report was the Lake Superior Research Institute's bioassay report. Submitted May 30, 2006.

Human Health Risk Assessment

The draft Human Health Risk Assessment analyzes sampling information to estimate the likelihood of effects on human health. Submitted April 7, 2006.

Remedial Investigation Report and Remedial Action Objectives Technical Memorandum

This draft report and draft technical memorandum identify the results of field sampling, detail the nature and extent of contamination throughout the site, summarize potential risks to people and the environment and provide other miscellaneous information important to develop cleanup options. Submitted June 5, 2006.